

From: robert donin
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2004 12:05 AM
Subject: CPR August 20th Hearing, Proposal to Eliminate Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Treatment Task Force , AB 1220 (Berg)

Ms. Walker and CPR Commissioners:

On behalf of TRI-PAC Health and Wellness Advocacy and as a long time American Heart Association (AHA) Volunteer and Grass Roots Advocate, I am writing to express my objection and opposition to the CPR Proposal to eliminate the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Treatment Task Force, AB 1220 (Berg) which will be on the August 20th agenda. Regretfully, I will be unable to be in San Diego to testify personally.

The CPR proposal to eliminate the Task force does not make sense since it does not impact the California budget.

AB 1220 says that the Task Force relies on private funds entirely. The \$163,000 raised to date to fund the Task Force is from the American Heart Association, Kaiser Permanente, and AstraZeneca.

The Task Force is not permanent. It will disband after the Master Plan is complete.

Cardiovascular disease is costing California \$14.2 billion each year in medical expenses and lost productivity.

Cardiovascular diseases kill nearly 1 million Americans each year and cost the Nation more than any other disease- an estimated \$368 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity this year.

The charge of the Task Force is to complete a State Master Plan for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Treatment. The existence of a Task Force directed Master Plan would qualify California and position our state more favorably to receive Centers for Disease Control (CDC) categorical funding for a comprehensive cardiovascular health program. This grant is the sole federal source of categorical funding for cardiovascular disease, health promotion and prevention and would allow California to qualify for \$1 million annually.

Ms. Walker and Fellow CPR Commission Members, I request, ask, and urge you to keep this important task force.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Donin
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